

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A process for making a stable colloid for gene transfer, said stable colloid comprising a complex which comprises DNA sequestered therein and which has ~~complexes which have~~ a neutral or net anionic surface potential and ~~comprise sequestered DNA~~, said process comprising modifying a precursor colloid comprising a complex which has a cationic surface potential and which comprises DNA and cationic lipids or cationic polymers, said DNA being sequestered within said complex, by reacting a reagent with the cationic lipids or cationic polymers present in said complex to reduce, remove or reverse said cationic surface potential, said reagent selected from the group consisting of citraconic anhydride and N-hydroxysuccinimide acetate.

Claims 2 to 6 (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said cationic lipid or cationic polymer is selected from the group consisting of linear polyamines, branched polyamines and polyamines comprising guanidinium groups.

Claims 8 to 10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said complex further comprises a targeting ligand covalently attached to a cationic lipid or cationic polymer.

Claims 12 and 13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said reagent is only reacted with cationic head groups of cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of said complex.
15. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said reagent is reacted with cationic head groups of cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said complex.

Claims 16 and 17 (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A stable colloid prepared by the process of Claim 1.
19. (Previously Presented) A method for gene therapy by delivering in vivo an exogenous therapeutic DNA sequence to a patient in need thereof comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of the stable colloid of claim 18.
20. (Currently Amended) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said cationic lipid or cationic polymer is selected from the group consisting of linear polyamines, branched polyamines and polyamines comprising ~~guanidinium~~ guanidinium groups.
21. (Currently Amended) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said complex further comprises a targeting ligand covalently attached to a cationic lipid or cationic polymer.
22. (Currently Amended) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said reagent is only

reacted with cationic head groups of cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of said complex.

23. (Currently Amended) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said reagent is reacted with cationic head groups of cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said complex.
24. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein said cationic lipid or cationic polymer is selected from the group consisting of linear polyamines, branched polyamines and polyamines comprising ~~gaunidinium~~ guanidinium groups.
25. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein said complex further comprises a targeting ligand covalently attached to a cationic lipid or cationic polymer.
26. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein said reagent is only reacted with cationic head groups of cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of said complex.
27. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein said reagent is reacted with cationic head groups of cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said complex.
28. (Previously Presented) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said cationic lipid contains hydrophobic moieties which are based on one or more acyl chains of various lengths.

29. (Previously Presented) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said cationic lipid contains a hydrophobic moiety which is a myristyl chain or a palmityl chain.
30. (Previously Presented) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said complex comprises further a targeting ligand which is selected from the group consisting of folate and tumor homing peptides.
31. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 19, wherein said cationic lipid contains hydrophobic moieties which are based on one or more acyl chains of various lengths.
32. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 19, wherein said complex comprises further a targeting ligand which is selected from the group consisting of folate and tumor homing peptides.